LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1.   (Original) In a client device, a method of operation comprising:

receiving from a remote server a distribution collection of sub-menu items for a menu item;

determining whether one or more of the sub-menu items of said distribution collection are not part of an operational collection of sub-menu items of the menu item;

updating the operational collection of sub-menu items of the menu item; and

changing an operational visual representation of the menu item from a first state to a second state to convey to a user of the client device that new sub-menu items have been added to the operational collection of sub-menu items of the menu item.

2.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said updating of the operational collection of sub-menu items of the menu item comprises adding said one or more of the sub-menu items of said distribution collection that are not part of said operational collection of sub-menu items of the menu item to the operational collection of sub-menu items of the menu item.

3.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said first state of the operational visual representation of the menu item comprises a description of the menu item, and said changing of the operational visual representation of the menu item from the first state to the second state comprises changing said operational visual representation of the menu item comprising said description of the menu item to an operational visual representation of the menu item comprising said description of the menu item annotated with an indication that one or more sub-menu items have been added to the operational collection of sub-menu items of the menu item.

4.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the method further comprises responsive to an occurrence of a predetermined condition, changing said operational visual representation of the menu item from said second state back to said first state.

5.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, wherein said predetermined condition comprises a user having selected a predetermined number of at least one or more added sub-menu items.

6.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said menu item corresponds to a family of program products, said sub-menu items correspond to program products of the family, and said one or more sub-menu items that are not part of the operational collection of sub-menu items of the menu item correspond to newly available program products of the family or newly available versions of the program products of the family.

7.   (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the family of product products is 3D computer games, and each of the program products is a 3D computer game.

8.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said menu item corresponds to a family of media contents, said sub-menu items correspond to media contents of the family, and said one or more sub-menu items that are not part of the operational collection of sub-menu items of the menu item correspond to newly available media contents of the family or newly available versions of the media contents of the family.

9.   (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the family of media contents is a bulletin board of information postings, and each of media contents is an information posting.

10.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said menu item corresponds to a family of documents, said sub-menu items correspond to documents of the family, and said one or more sub-menu items that are not part of the operational collection of sub-menu items of the

menu item correspond to newly available documents of the family or newly available versions of the documents of the family.

11.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein one or more sub-menu items comprise locators identifying locations from which resources to which the one or sub-menu items correspond can be retrieved.

12.   (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein said locations are disposed within a local file subsystem, and the method further comprises receiving said resources into said locations of said file subsystem from a selected one of said remote server or an agent of said remote server.

13.   (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein said resources comprise selected ones of executable, text files and web pages.

14.   (Original) An apparatus comprising:

storage medium having stored therein a plurality of programming instructions designed to implement a menu management function, when executed, enables the apparatus to

receive from a remote server a distribution collection of sub-menu items for a menu item,

determine whether one or more of the sub-menu items of said distribution collection are not part of an operational collection of sub-menu items of the menu item,

update the operational collection of sub-menu items of the menu item, and

change an operational visual representation of the menu item from a first state to a second state to convey to a user of the client device that new sub-menu items have been added to the operational collection of sub-menu items of the menu item; and

at least one processor coupled to the storage medium to execute the programming instructions.

15.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein said menu management function enables said apparatus to update the operational collection of sub-menu items of the menu item by adding said one or more of the sub-menu items of said distribution collection that are not part of said operational collection of sub-menu items of the menu item to the operational collection of sub-menu items of the menu item.

16.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein said first state of the operational visual representation of the menu item comprises a description of the menu item, and said menu management function enables said apparatus to change the operational visual representation of the menu item from the first state to the second state by changing said operational visual representation of the menu item comprising said description of the menu item to an operational visual representation of the menu item comprising said description of the menu item annotated with an indication that one or more sub-menu items have been added to the operational collection of sub-menu items of the menu item.

17.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein said menu management function further enables said apparatus to change said operational visual representation of the menu item from said second state back to said first state, responsive to an occurrence of a predetermined condition.

18.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein said menu item corresponds to a family of program products, said sub-menu items correspond to program products of the family, and said one or more sub-menu items that are not part of the operational collection of sub-menu items of the menu item correspond to newly available program products of the family or newly available versions of the program products of the family.

19.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein said menu item corresponds to a family of media contents, said sub-menu items correspond to media contents of the family, and said one or more sub-menu items that are not part of the operational collection of sub-menu items of the menu item correspond to newly available media contents of the family or newly available versions of the media contents of the family.

20.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein said menu item corresponds to a family of documents, said sub-menu items correspond to documents of the family, and said one or more sub-menu items that are not part of the operational collection of sub-menu items of the menu item correspond to newly available documents of the family or newly available versions of the documents of the family.

21.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein one or more sub-menu items comprise locators identifying locations from which resources to which the one or sub-menu items correspond can be retrieved.

22.   (Previously Presented) A method comprising:
        installing a first version of a first resource on an apparatus;
        installing also on said apparatus a first sub-menu item corresponding to the first version of the first resource; and
        installing further on said apparatus an agent to facilitate subsequent installing on said apparatus a second sub-menu item corresponding to a selected one of a second version of the first resource and a third version of a second resource, and to facilitate modification of a visual representation of a menu item of said apparatus to which at least one or multiple sub-menu items are members, to draw an user's attention to said second sub-menu item.

23.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein said agent facilitates modification of said visual representation of said menu item of said apparatus to which at least one or multiple sub-menu items are members by facilitating modification of said visual representation of said menu item from a first state to a second state, and said agent further

facilitates restoration of said visual representation of said menu item back to said first state responsive to an occurrence of a pre-determined condition.

24.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, wherein said resource is a selected one of an executable and a media content.

25.   (Previously Presented) An apparatus comprising:

storage medium having stored therein a plurality of programming instructions, when executed,

        install a first version of a first resource on said apparatus,

        install within a menu hierarchy of said apparatus a first sub-menu item corresponding to the first version of the first resource, and

        install an agent on said apparatus to facilitate subsequent installation of a second sub-menu item corresponding to a selected one of a second version of the first resource and a third version of a second resource, and to facilitate modification of a visual representation of a menu item of said menu hierarchy to which at least or multiple sub-menu items are members, to draw an user's attention to said second sub-menu item; and

at least one processor coupled to the storage medium to execute the programming instructions.

26.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein said agent facilitates modification of said visual representation of said menu item to which at least one or multiple sub-menu items are members by facilitating modification of said visual representation of said menu item from a first state to a second state, and said agent further facilitates restoration of said visual representation of said menu item back to said first state responsive to an occurrence of a pre-determined condition.

27.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein said resource is a selected one of an executable and a media content.

28. (Previously Presented) A server apparatus comprising:

storage medium having stored therein a plurality of programming instructions, when executed,

install a first version of a first resource on a client apparatus,

install within a menu hierarchy of said client apparatus a first sub-menu item corresponding to the first version of the first resource, and

install an agent on said client apparatus to facilitate subsequent installation of a second sub-menu item corresponding to a selected one of a second version of the first resource and a third version of a second resource, and to facilitate modification of a visual representation of a menu item of said menu hierarchy to which at least one or multiple sub-menu items are members, to draw an user's attention to said second sub-menu item; and

at least one processor coupled to the storage medium to execute the programming instructions.

29. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 28, wherein said agent facilitates modification of said visual representation of said menu item to which at least one or multiple sub-menu items are members by facilitating modification of said visual representation of said menu item from a first state to a second state, and said agent further facilitates restoration of said visual representation of said menu item back to said first state responsive to an occurrence of a pre-determined condition.

30. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 28, wherein said resource is a selected one of an executable and a media content.

31. (Previously Presented) A method comprising:

installing a first version of a first game software on an apparatus;

installing also on said apparatus a first sub-menu item corresponding to the first version of the first game software; and

installing further on said apparatus an agent to facilitate subsequent installing on said apparatus a second sub-menu item corresponding to a selected one of a second version of the first game software and a third version of a second game software, and to facilitate modification of a visual representation of a menu item to which the sub-menu items are members, to draw an user's attention to said second sub-menu item.

32.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, wherein said agent facilitates modification of said visual representation of said menu item to which the sub-menu items are members by facilitating modification of said visual representation of said menu item from a first state to a second state, and said agent further facilitates restoration of said visual representation of said menu item back to said first state responsive to an occurrence of a pre-determined condition.

33.   (Previously Presented) An apparatus comprising:
        storage medium having stored therein a plurality of programming instructions, when executed,
                install a first version of a first game software on said apparatus,
                install within a menu hierarchy of said apparatus a first sub-menu item
                        corresponding to the first version of the first game software, and
                install an agent on said apparatus to facilitate subsequent installation of a
                        second sub-menu item corresponding to a selected one of a second version
                        of the first game software and a third version of a second game software,
                        and to facilitate modification of a visual representation of a menu item of
                        said menu hierarchy to which the sub-menu items are members, to draw
                        an user's attention to said second sub-menu item; and
        at least one processor coupled to the storage medium to execute the programming instructions.

34.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 33, wherein said agent facilitates modification of said visual representation of said menu item to which the sub-menu items are

members by facilitating modification of said visual representation of said menu item from a first state to a second state, and said agent further facilitates restoration of said visual representation of said menu item back to said first state responsive to an occurrence of a pre-determined condition.

35.   (Previously Presented) A server apparatus comprising:

storage medium having stored therein a plurality of programming instructions, when executed,

install a first version of a first game software on a client apparatus,

install within a menu hierarchy of said client apparatus a first sub-menu item corresponding to the first version of the first game software, and

install an agent on said client apparatus to facilitate subsequent installation of a second sub-menu item corresponding to a selected one of a second version of the first game software and a third version of a second game software, and to facilitate modification of a visual representation of a menu item of said menu hierarchy to which the sub-menu items are members, to draw an user's attention to said second sub-menu item; and

at least one processor coupled to the storage medium to execute the programming instructions.

36.   (Previously Presented) The server apparatus of claim 35, wherein said agent facilitates modification of said visual representation of said menu item to which the sub-menu items are members by facilitating modification of said visual representation of said menu item from a first state to a second state, and said agent further facilitates restoration of said visual representation of said menu item back to said first state responsive to an occurrence of a pre-determined condition.